

Matten, Ellen

From: Clare Ritchie [critchie@runestone.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 1999 9:59 AM
To: USCodex@dchqexs1.hqnet.usda.gov
Subject: Labeling Genetically Engineered Foods

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Sensitivity: Personal

Dear Mr. Lake,

I am writing to express my support of a requirement labeling genetically engineered foods and to encourage you, as the US Delegate to Codex, to take the position that consumers have a right to know what it is they are consuming.

How are we, as consumers, able to make wise and informed decisions if we are not provided with information necessary on which to base those decisions? As the person most responsible for the food choices of my family of five, I want to know what it is that I am choosing. I believe that what we eat makes a tremendous difference in our health and our health is a very serious concern for me.

Please remember that you represent the people of the United States, not just the corporations of the United States, particularly the food corporations. Keep in mind that many of these corporations have the self interest of their business at the heart of their decision making, not the good of the people. The fact that they spend millions of dollars to support lobbyists and advertising campaigns, does not make them right.

I encourage you, not only to accept, but to seek out other sources of information, read and pay attention to it! At your Codex meetings in this country, please have more attendees other than commercial food corporations. The health of our country's citizens, which ultimately means the future of our country is really at stake here.

I expect that you have attended or perhaps are attending the Codex meeting in Canada this week. I hope the meeting went well. It takes much courage to stand up for the good of the people. My best wishes in your work.

Sincerely,
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